

Building Trades Council Eats, Drinks and Makes Merry at Annual Banquet

Newly Elected Officers Tender Feed and Drink to Business Agents and Invited Guests.—Out of Town Leaders Present and Local Talent Entertain With Song, Story and Vaudeville Stunts.

The newly elected officers of the Cincinnati Building Trades Council tendered a banquet to business agents and other especially invited guests at the Auf Wiederschen Cafe, Twelfth and Walnut streets, Thursday night.

About sixty persons were present, including many labor leaders from other cities of the State. The banquet was the annual affair which follows the yearly election.

Anyone who thinks that the man who works with his hands cannot lay aside the cares of life and enjoy himself when the occasion requires, should have been at the "blow-out." Hours, wage scales, working conditions, were forgotten and the bunch had a good time.

President Cullen presided as toastmaster. "Joe" Cullen knows every labor leader in the State, and in his introductions paved the way for the speaker to exercise his own judgment as to the line of entertainment he would offer.

Thos. J. Donnelly, Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, and the Federation's legislative agent at the latest meeting of the General Assembly, spoke upon the all important subject of labor legislation; President McManus, of the State Federation, made a short but pointed speech on "Harmony Among Unions;" Frank Imwalle, secretary of the State Federation; Thomas H. Mugavin, Traveling Auditor of the Industrial Commission of Ohio; William Groeniger, Columbus, State Plumbing Inspector; Brother Murphy, Editor of the Labor Record,

Youngstown; Thomas McEwen, Brother Grancy of Youngstown, and others also were among the list of speakers.

After the tables were cleared of the chicken, peas, salads, and all those other things which go toward making a menu that is the despair of diabetics, and the serious business that occupied the attention of the audience and the first speakers of the evening, dull care was promptly forgotten and the remainder of the evening was devoted to mirth and merriment.

It was then that the theatrical talent of the Council was brought into play. With Bob Kuhlman at the piano, T. J. Galloway, the Covington Harry Lauder, gave Scotch songs and stories; Thomas McEwen delivered his justly famous "Arkansas Senator" speech; Jake Kunzelman, of the Painters, gave a life-like imitation of Charlie Chaplin which brought many encores; Guy Hecker, Electrician, entertained the audience for many pleasant minutes with his songs and impersonations, among which was the well-known classic, "Fatima Brown," the "Circus Ballyhoo" and a one-man wrestling match. McTrender, of the Electricians, rendered several well received songs.

That the bartenders' union was not on strike was fully demonstrated, as Pat McHugh and a staff of men were busy seeing that no one could imagine he was in the Sahara Desert.

As the country papers say, "All present had a most enjoyable time."

BIG ADVANCE DEMANDED

By Gunccotton Makers, Who Vote To Go Out on Strike.

Pottsville, Penn.—Two hundred and sixty of the 400 employees of the Nitrated Products Company voted to go on strike for an increase in wages from 37½ to 75 cents an hour. Pickets were placed around the plant and union leaders declared that all the workers would be out. A squad of State police are on duty at the plant.

Announcement was made last week that the company had closed an order with agents of the allies for gunccotton and other explosives amounting to \$5,000,000 and that the capacity of the plant would be doubled.

This plant has been working night and day since its erection several months ago.

VESSEL MEN WRECKED OUR MERCHANT MARINE.

Washington.—Vessel owners are themselves responsible for the absence of an American merchant marine, declares President Furusheth of the International Seamen's Union of America.

The shipping interests are blaming the seamen's law for their troubles, and are answered as follows by the seamen's executive:

"Starting with the beginning of this government, for 102 years congress never passed any measure dealing with the merchant marine except upon the request of the American ship owners. For 102 years, up to 1894, ship owners never requested anything that was not given to them, except, perhaps, a sufficiently large ship subsidy. During that time congress never passed any law against which the ship owners entered protest. The ship owners' advice left this country without any American ships in the foreign trade and without any native or citizen seamen in any trade. Congress began a couple of years ago to use its own judgment and something like 200 vessels have come under the flag. If congress continues using its own judgment we will have both ships and seamen."

PIECE WORK CAUSES STRIKE.

Warsaw, Ind.—Employees of the Hugro Manufacturing Company are on strike because a new piece work scale has reduced wages from 50 to 75 cents a day. The former rates only ranged from 22 to 25 cents an hour.

CONVICT LEASE SYSTEM CLASSIFIED AS "CANCER."

Montgomery, Ala.—"A cancer that should be out of Alabama's body politic," is the estimate of the State's convict lease system by a committee appointed by the State legislature. The committee has been investigating this question and its indictment of the leasing system includes recommendations that all convict leases be abrogated January 1, 1918; that the convicts after that date be worked on the public highways and State farms; that the State board of convict inspectors be abolished at once and that in lieu thereof a State prison commission be created.

The report was made on the floors of the house and senate soon after the legislature reconvened for the second time this year.

Donnelly Says Union Solons Loyal

"While labor had but seven members in the general assembly, we believe they did the best they could to advance the interests of labor." This is a portion of the report by State Federation of Labor Secretary Donnelly and representatives of the brotherhoods of firemen and trainmen on efforts to secure the passage of remedial legislation by the recent Ohio legislature.

The report says that labor bills in committees were handicapped because "many legislators, while friendly to them, were not qualified to take the floor and advocate them in the face of opposition. Your legislative agents take this opportunity to urge upon the membership the necessity of greater activity in succeeding campaigns, to the end that more members of organized labor be nominated and elected to the legislature."

ASK FEWER HOURS, MORE PAY.

Columbus, O.—At the convention of American Flint Glass Workers' Union it was decided to ask manufacturers, with whom they will confer at Atlantic City, for a reduction in hours from 8½ to 8 a day. The press and iron mold department decided to ask for a 10 per cent wage increase. Other departments will make similar requests, but the percentage varies with the article produced. The convention voted to continue the strike against the Federal Glass Company of this city, which has been in progress two years, and the strike of cutters in Brooklyn, which has been on for a year.

RAILROADS WOULD EVADE LAW.

Duluth, Minn.—Unionists say that several railroads are attempting to evade the recently enacted state semi-monthly pay day law, which workers have been demanding for 15 years.

CAN'T RUN THEIR OWN BUSINESS.

Topeka, Kans.—Hereafter telegraph companies must ask the state public utilities commission for permission before they can discontinue offices in localities that furnish little business. The Supreme Court has upheld the commission's order to this effect. The companies, however, will continue to tell the public they have "the right to run their own business" whenever workers ask for better conditions or increased wages.

RAILROADS' RECEIPTS GAIN.

Washington.—In a report issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission, it is shown that 174 railroads increased their net revenue from operations from \$56,202,405 during May, last year, to \$70,261,003 during May of this year. The commission intimates that this increase has been made possible through the practice of economies in management and increasing business. Rate increases in the eastern district was a factor.

Reports by express companies show that these concerns are also prospering despite parcel post inroads. During the month of March the nine principal express companies converted what was a deficit in March of last year of \$4,619, into a credit on the right side of the ledger amounting to \$762,920 in net operating revenues.

Cincinnati Street Car Men Show by Example Why It Pays to Belong to Union

When Men Are Disabled or Laid Off, Division No. 627 Goes Promptly to the Relief of the Brother Member and His Family and Dependents.

By CHARLES H. SAMPSON.

Many men never realize the benefits derived from organized labor. A great many people are under the impression that the labor movement is not conducted along business lines, but this impression is quite a mistake and goes to show that these people are not familiar with the movement as it really is.

The movement itself is based upon economic principles, and should interest every one whether they earn their living by labor or not.

When we stop to look back over the road which we have traveled for the last two years, we realize that we have made some progress. Look at the great amount of good this Division has done for humanity. The organization stands for the uplifting and betterment of the conditions surrounding the working class of people. When the conditions surrounding a man's labor are unsatisfactory and they can be changed so that the work can be considered more agreeable, the organization takes up the case and attempts to show the way in which these conditions can be changed and bettered, always keeping in mind the necessity of not creating any additional expense.

Not Easy Task.

This is not an easy task. Some conditions can be improved whereby the operating company saves money. Certainly suggestions of this kind are always welcome, but in some cases to change an obnoxious condition requires the expenditure of a small amount of money. In a case of this kind it is very difficult to convince the management that

the condition should be altered. Sometimes altering a bad condition and expending a little extra cash means manifold returns for the investment.

When men are disabled and their families are suffering, it is the members of organized labor who understand and reach in their pockets to render assistance. When the company issued a statement and says that, owing to the hard times and lack of travel, it is necessary to lay some of the men off, then it was Division 627, Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America who took up the burden of supplying the members who had been laid off with a sufficient amount of money to carry them through a hard winter.

Helped Fellow Workers.

Think of the amount of suffering that was prevented by this Division. The wives and children of these men would have suffered during the long cold winter if the membership of this division had not understood and sympathized in a material manner. When a man needs assistance and sympathy he naturally turns to his organization and his fellow man for it.

The organization is founded upon principle and principle alone. If the principle was not good and sound the movement would have perished long ago. Business principles are adopted and are followed, but mingled with these principles are an understanding of the needs of humanity, and sympathizing with our fellow-man in a manner which he understands and appreciates.

Ohio Miners Are Destitute Food Needed

Columbus, O.—Food, medicine and supplies for babies are in demand among destitute miners of the Hocking Valley district. This report was brought to Assistant Adjutant General E. S. Bryant today and he took prompt steps to include these in the car of provisions which went to Glouster today.

Lieutenant John F. Bailey reported that scores of babies born during the last few months to miners' wives are not strong, either because of improper nourishment or lack of corrective medicines. Prophylactic and antiseptic lotions, absorbent cotton and baby clothes are needed badly, as are nourishing foods for the youngsters, he said.

The largest single contribution received by the Adjutant General's department came today from the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce in the form of a check for \$1,000. Arthur L. Garford of Elyria, manufacturer, former Progressive candidate for United States Senator, sent \$100, and a Judge of the Fourth Appellate District, who asked that his name not be given out, sent \$25.

Colonel Bryant pointed out that every contribution of \$100 is sufficient to buy a whole car load of provisions, sufficient to feed 500 adult persons for one day. The cost of food for miners' relief, therefore, is twenty cents a day. Money can be used to such better advantage that it is being sought far more anxiously than small contributions of food, Colonel Bryant said.

UNIONISTS AND FARMERS UNITE.

Atlanta, Ga.—The State Federation of Labor, the Farmers' Union, and the Brotherhood of Railway Firemen will act jointly in urging the state legislature to pass the following legislation:

Factory inspector, semi-monthly pay day, public printer, the recall, school books at cost and the Torrins land system.

MEXICAN MINERS WIN.

Phoenix, Ariz.—After a two weeks' strike Mexican miners employed by the Consolidated Mining Company at Ray, this state, have returned to work. Wages are increased and thirty minutes for lunch while working underground is also secured. The company promises not to discriminate in favor of non-union miners if the miners agree not to form a local in Ray, but may hold membership elsewhere. This has resulted in several hundred joining the local at Miami, in the next county. The miners are jubilant over their advance. Trade unionists who assisted these workers say the settlement is a distinct gain and the forerunner of future progress.

TRACK MEN MAKE GAINS.

Detroit.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees announce that the first maintenance-of-way schedule ever obtained on the Northern Pacific Railway is now in effect. Among the more important gains are time and one-half for overtime; expenses paid when away from headquarters; and provision for adjustment of grievances.

STATE LAND AWAITS BUYERS.

Sacramento, Cal.—Next month half a million acres of school lands will be sold at public auction at court houses in which the particular land lies. State Surveyor General Kingsbury will give due notice through advertisements. Most of this land is in desert and mountain sections of the state. The last legislature passed the necessary enabling act to open the land for entry.

BIDS GOOD-BY TO WIRES.

New York.—Nikola Tesla, electrical expert and pioneer in the field of wireless telegraphy and telephony, predicts the end of communication by wires. He declares that the wireless telephone is practical, and that only a few mechanical details need to be improved to make it of general service.

"The day of the wireless telephone and even the wireless photograph transmitter is not far off," he said.